

NONCODE ORDINANCE

Sponsored By: Borough Manager

Introduced: 08/20/19

Public Hearing: 09/03/19

Willow Library Project and Fish Creek Project

Separated into two pieces of legislation: 09/03/19

Postponed to 10/15/19: 09/03/19

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 19-101B**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
APPROPRIATING UP TO \$1.5 MILLION FOR FISH CREEK ACCESS PROJECT,
FUND 480, PROJECT NO. 47031.

WHEREAS, per Borough code 23.05.070 (D)(2) *Land Management funds money shall be spent or disbursed as appropriated by the assembly and shall be appropriated for the following purposes only: capital improvements including, but not limited to, schools, trails, roads, streets, buildings, port infrastructure, harbors, air fields, park acquisition and development, utilities and property acquisition; therefore, this is an appropriate use of these funds; and*

WHEREAS, The Fish Creek Access project is a project the land and resource management division has been working on for seven years. The (approximately) \$6 million project would construct two bridges, improve 6.7 miles of winter ice road and add 12 miles of all season road to open up vast acreage in the west side of the Borough to agriculture, commercial use, forestry, materials extraction, public recreation, resource management, and settlement; and

WHEREAS, the two bridges and forest road will help develop the area between the Little Susitna (Little Su) and Susitna (Big Su) Rivers, opening up approximately 200,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, perhaps as important, the project also puts us at the doorstep of 6 million acres of land on the other side of the Big Su with oil and gas, mineral, agricultural, timber, and many other resources; and

WHEREAS, the challenge is and always has been, ACCESS to these resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is the critical first step to opening up this region for economic development; and

WHEREAS, a winter ice road to the area and two ice bridges across the Little Su were constructed in 2014. The project begins at the end of West Susitna Parkway southwest of Big Lake. Upgrade of the winter ice road to a two-way single lane all season resource recovery road (including two all-season bridges) is proposed; and

WHEREAS, the project includes one bridge constructed across the Little Su as well as one small bridge placed across a nearby stream; and

WHEREAS, extending the existing winter ice road approximately 12 miles across Borough and State land will connect it near the preferred crossing point for the future bridge across the Big Su; and

WHEREAS, upgrading this proposed 12-mile ice road to a two-way single lane all-season resource recovery road will require additional study and funding; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has already expended \$400,000 on 6.7 miles of winter ice road; and

WHEREAS, project costs include 1) Pioneer Road and unnamed stream crossing (\$1.43 million), Bridge over the Little Su, West approach & turnaround (\$4.41 million) and A/E fees (\$450,000) for a total project cost of \$6,290,000; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has \$1.5 million in the Land Management permanent fund that can be allocated for this project. Our goal is to utilize these funds for grant match to cover the balance of project costs. If grant funds or other partnerships cannot be secured, these funds would simply go back to the Land Management Permanent Fund.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. This is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Appropriation Source. It is hereby appropriated by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly an amount of up to \$1.5 million from Fund 203, to Fund 480, Project No. 47031, for the Fish Creek Access Project.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this ___ day of _____, 2019.

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)